

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES - SHELLFISH HARVESTING

CHAPTER 10

CLAMS AND QUAHOGS

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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 10 Clams and Quahogs

10.01 Taking of quahogs in Maquoit Bay

It shall be unlawful to dredge or to take quahogs by any means, except the usual manner of hand digging with a so-called clam hoe, or by hand raking and hand tonging, or by picking quahogs out of the mud by hand, from the waters or flats of Maquoit Bay, Cumberland County, namely, all of the territory north and northeast of a line drawn from the most southerly end of Mere Point in the Town of Brunswick to the northeasterly end of Little Flying Point in the town of Freeport. This section shall not apply to equipment operated by the Department of Marine Resources.

10.02 Taking of quahogs in Middle Bay

It shall be unlawful to dredge or to take quahogs by any means, except by the usual manner of hand digging with a so-called clam hoe or by hand raking and hand tonging, or by picking quahogs out of the mud by hand from the waters or flats of Middle Bay, Cumberland County, namely all of the territory north and northeasterly of a line drawn from a red marker, on the eastern shore of Mere Point and located at Blackstone Rock on the south shore of Win Smith Cove, so-called, then in an easterly direction to and including the northern shore of Birch Island and continuing in the same general direction to a red painted wood post placed on the northern point of Wilson Cove, so-called, located in the western shore of Harpswell Neck. This section shall not apply to equipment operated by the Department of Marine Resources.

10.03 Method of taking Surf, Hen Clams or Quahogs

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take any surf, hen clams or quahogs by any method of dredging or dragging with any combination of dredge or drag with any cutter bar that exceeds 36" in overall width except that in the area between the Spurwink River in Scarborough and Fletcher's Neck in Biddeford Pool, the cutter bar shall not exceed 24" in overall width

10.04 Quahog Size Restrictions

A. Definitions

1. Quahog
Quahog means *Mercenaria mercenaria*, commonly referred to as hard shelled clams.
2. Hinge width
Hinge width means the thickness of a quahog as measured between the convex apex of the right shell and the convex apex of the left shell.

B. Minimum Size

It shall be unlawful to take, possess, ship, transport, buy or sell quahogs that are less than one inch in thickness as measured across the hinge width.

1. Exemption
Quahogs of smaller size may be taken or possessed by persons holding an aquaculture lease issued under 12 M.R.S.A. §6072, §6072-A or §6072-B, as provided in §6073-A, or by persons holding a limited-purpose aquaculture (LPA) license issued pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A. §6072-C. Transportation, buying, selling and sanitation must all be in compliance with Chapters 9 and 15-20 and 21-24. This exception shall only apply to quahogs cultivated in the leased or licensed areas.

C. Compliance

Persons must comply with DMR regulations in Chapters 9 and 15 through 20 established in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance (NSSP/MO) for the sanitary control of shellfish, which includes tagging requirements, and with DMR regulations in Chapters 21-24.

10.05 Taking of quahogs in the sub-tidal waters of New Meadows Lake, Brunswick and West Bath

A. New Meadows Lake: The area bounded by the Old Bath Road and the Brunswick Road.

B. Methods of harvest prohibited

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take quahogs by towing any dredge, drag or other implement by watercraft; by diver/diving (SCUBA or snorkel*); or by pump, suction or any type of mechanical suction device. Hand digging with a so-called clam hoe or bull rake, hand-raking, hand tonging, or picking quahogs out of the mud by hand are allowed. Harvest by cutting through or breaking the ice is prohibited; harvest may take place only through open water.

*Any artificial breathing device that allows a person to breathe underwater.

This subsection does not apply to the holder of a lease issued under 12 M.R.S. §§6072, 6072-A or 6072-B when fishing for or taking quahogs cultivated on the leased area within the waters of New Meadows Lake.

C. Night prohibition

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take quahogs during the period ½ hour after sunset, as defined in [12 M.R.S. §6001\(46\)](#), until ½ hour before sunrise, as defined in [12 M.R.S. §6001\(45\)](#).

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EFFECTIVE DATE:

February 17, 1978 – Section 3

AMENDED:

November 2, 1986 – Section 4

January 17, 1987 – Section 5, EXPIRED 12/31/87

June 11, 1999 – Section 10, EMERGENCY, EXPIRED 9/10/99

September 25, 1999 – Sections 01, 02, 03, and 04

April 25, 2005 – Section 04

April 1, 2010 – Section 05, EMERGENCY, EXPIRED 6/29/10

August 23, 2010 – Section 05